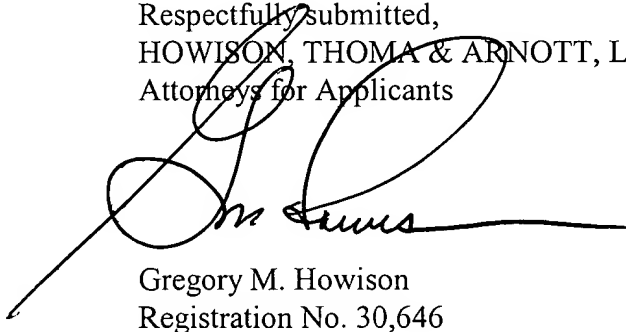


Applicants respectfully point out that the present application was filed May 3, 2001 *with* a Preliminary Amendment. The return postcard (copy enclosed) includes the PTO bar code, serial number and filing date of the present application and also lists the "PAM (5)", the Preliminary Amendment having five pages, filed in the present application. This Preliminary Amendment requests the deletion of Claims 1-38 in the present application and the insertion of new Claims 39-44, the Claims 1-38 being from the *parent* application, serial number 09/044,539.

Applicants believe this situation is an oversight and respectfully request the consideration and examination of the new Claims 39-44, filed with the application in the Preliminary Amendment, in a non-final *Office Action*. For the Examiner's convenience, a copy of the Preliminary Amendment filed May 3, 2001 is attached.

Applicants have now made an earnest attempt in order to place the proper claims before the Examiner for his consideration and request the examination thereof. Please charge any additional fees or deficiencies in fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-0780/TRSY-25,474 of HOWISON, THOMA & ARNOTT, L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,
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AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE
S/N 09/848,456
Atty. Dkt. No. TRSY-25,474